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**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Hiroaki TAKAIWA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2851

Application No.: 10/587,268

Examiner: Michael LIU

Filed: July 26, 2006

Docket No.: 128865

For: EXPOSURE APPARATUS AND DEVICE MANUFACTURING METHOD

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Restriction Requirement dated March 17, 2008, Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-41 and 48-50. The election is made with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

In addition, the Examiner is requested to consider the Information Disclosure  
Statements filed in this application on July 26, 2006 and on February 14, 2007.

Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC:jls

Date: April 7, 2008

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